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62. 67 Whatever the Weather May Be!

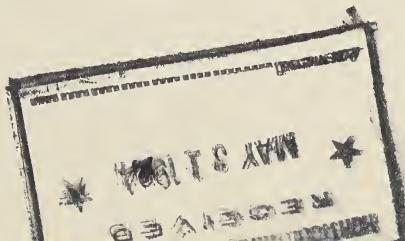
"Supposin' today was the winterest day,
Wud the weather be changin' 'cause you cried,
Or the snow be grass, were you crucified?
The best is to make your own summer, says he,
Whatever the weather may be!
Ye can bring the Spring, wid its green and gold,
An' the grass in the grove where the snow lies cold;
It's the songs ye sing, and the smile ye wear,
That's a-makin' the sun shine everywhere."

I believe Riley had the gardener in mind when he composed these lines, and I do not think there has ever been a time when they were more applicable than now. We gardeners in this locality certainly need all the solace that literature, good fellowship, faith and hope can give us,—for the weather man has been most unkind.

Rain has been the order of the day for a major part of the spring, and it took real patience and concentrated effort to get the necessary work completed to put the garden in shape. But my force made the most of every opportunity and the latter part of last week saw everything in ship-shape for a splendid blooming season, and the plants in my European Iris Garden seemed to be vying with each other to throw promising bloom stalks, and as I watched the development I could not help but have the thrill of approaching the greatest Iris blooming season my garden has ever had.

But the weather man changed it all.

Thursday of last week, it began to get cooler, and the temperature fell to 30 degrees during the night. Friday showed no improvement as the thermometer registered a further drop to 26 degrees. The weather man seemed to have fallen into the habit of serving cold weather, for Saturday and Sunday followed with freezing



temperatures. The chill is still very much in evidence, and the constant patter of the rain keeps me company as I write.

And O, what a change it made in the garden! Aleazar, with its sturdy, splendid bloom stalks and well developed buds, now stands with bowed head and blighted buds. Miranda, who last year gave us a profusion of bloom on her tall stiff bloom stalks, is trying her best to overcome the effects of the freeze and mature blooms from crooked, sprawling stems that are not at all characteristic. Yellow Hammer (Dykes), which had been giving us such a splendid display of yellow bloom, has not yet gathered courage enough to open another bud. Zwanenburg, which has delighted us the past week with its mass of tan blooms, now shows no color and the frozen blooms only emphasize the bright spot it did display in the garden. The dwarf section, which was a mass of color, is now a cemetery of inactivity. In fact, the entire garden seems to have lost the spirit of competition, and the dormant stillness of undeveloped buds has settled there. I can't quite describe my feelings when I found the most promising bud on Swazi hanging down from a frozen bloom stalk, and that the several buds on Aphrodite had lost their vigor. The keen loss and disappointment here was soon followed by a great hope.

Kurdistan opened yesterday, displaying a rich reddish-purple bloom of splendid size and quality, and Osiris, a regelio-cyclus variety opened a splendid bloom, beautifully veined and marked like Susiana, Una and others in that class. The plants in my entire garden are all vigorous and healthy as the freeze damaged only the bloom stalks and the developed buds, and I am hoping that many of the buds are still uninjured, and will, like Kurdistan and Osiris, still show good bloom. I know that I will not enjoy the great wealth of bloom that my garden had in store for me, but I am going to smile and "make my own summer", until the buds do develop as I hope they will if the weather man gets back to anything like a regular and seasonable schedule. The following varieties do not appear to be injured and may show bloom. If you are interested in seeing any of them in bloom and will write or wire me, I will be glad to tell you promptly just what progress the plants are making.

Alcazar	Dorman	Mme. Abel Chatenay
Alphonso	Drake	Mme. Blanche Pion
Ambassadeur	Dr. Bless	Mme. Chobaut
Ambigu	Duke of Bedford	Mme. de Genlis
Archeveque	Dusky Maid	Mme. de Sevigne
Arlequin	Eckesachs	Mme. Denis
Armand Clavaud	Eclaireur	Mme. Durrand
Armenian	Edouard Michel	Mme. Gaudichau
Asia	Emir	Mme. Guerville
Askabad	Eugene Bonvallet	Mme. J. Vernoux
Assyrian	Francina	Mme. Leveque
Aurora	Fritzjof	M. Austin
Azure	Fuerstin Lonyay	M. Aymard
Balaruc	Germaine Le Clerc	M. Perthuis
Ballerine	Glamour	Mlle. Schwartz
Blue Boy	Gnome	Mlle. Yvonne Pelle-tier
Bruno	Gold Crest	Mrs. Tinley
Camelot	Goliath	Mrs. Walter Brewster
Cardinal	Halo	
Celia	Hamadan	
Chatelet	Hautefeuille	Magnifica
Cherubim	Hermione	Ma Mie
Citronella	Hilda	Manon
Colonel Candelot	Hippolyta	Menetrier
Cora	Ignacite	Mercedes
Cordelia	Igouf	Mimung
Corrida	Jacqueline	Miranda
Daisy Hill	King George V	Moa
Daphne	Kurdistan	Moliere
Dauphin	La Beute	Morwell
Dawn	La Esmeralda	Neptune
Dejazet	La Neige	Nine Wells
Deuil de Valery	Lady Byng	Opera
Mayet	Lancelot	Oporto
Diadem	Le Grande Ferre	Pallida Odoratissima
Dixmude	Le Pactole	Pancroft
Dominion	Leverrier	Pare de Neuilly
Donna Nook	Liberty	Paulina
Dora Longdon	Lionel Millet	Petit Vitry
Dorinde	Lord of June	Pioneer

Pont-a-Mousson	Rosalba	Susan Bliss
Porecelain	Rosalind	Suzanne Autissier
Princess Royal	Rose Salterne	Syphax
Prospero	Ruby	Tamar
Prosper Laugier	Salonique	Tenebrae
Queen Elinor	Sapphire	Titan
Queen Flavia	Saracen	Troost
Queen Mary	Shiraz	Tureo
Rheintraube	Silvia	William Marshall
Ring Dove	Solfatare	Yeoman
Rodney	Squalen's Viel Or	Zouave
Romeo	Sunshine	

It adds strength to my hope and expectation to note that Citronella, Cardinal, Duke of Bedford, Bruno, Titan, Tenebrae, Moa and Dominion are listed with the "possible comers". While I cannot promise the wonderful treat which my garden had in store for visitors, yet you are still invited to enjoy the varieties that show bloom.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ.

Third Bulletin on Iris Blooming Season.

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P. S.—I am glad to add that my Peonies do not seem to be hurt at all. The blooming season will be late but I am looking for splendid blooms when the weather man is kind enough to allow them to develop.